

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use with a printer, the method comprising:
selectively configuring at least one print media supply tray based
at least on a print media size and a print media type; and
automatically displaying current configuration status information
about the print media supply tray, including at least the print media size, when
the print media supply tray is operatively modified with regard to at least the
print media size.
2. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein selectively configuring
the print media supply tray further includes causing at least a print media size
detectable mechanism to be modified in a manner that corresponds to the print
media size, and causing at least a print media type detectable mechanism to be
modified in a manner that corresponds to the print media type.
3. A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the print media size and
print media type detectable mechanisms are provided via at least one
component selected from a group comprising the print media tray, a printer
input panel, and a print driver graphical user interface.
4. A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein automatically displaying
current configuration status information about the print media supply tray
further includes detecting the print media size and print media type detectable
mechanisms and providing a resulting current configuration status information

to at least one component selected from a group comprising a print media tray display, a printer display panel, and a print driver graphical user interface.

5. A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein automatically displaying current configuration status information about the print media supply tray further includes determining when the print media supply tray is operatively modified by detecting at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray.

6. A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray is detected from a group of detectable mechanisms including the print media size detectable mechanism, the print media type detectable mechanism, a tray position detectable mechanism, and a print media present detectable mechanism.

7. A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein selectively configuring the print media supply tray further includes at least once, initially, installing print driver software on at least one computer coupled to the printer, wherein, during print driver software installation a user is prompted, using a graphical user interface, to configure the print driver software to match the configuration of the print media supply tray based at least on the print media size, the print media type, and at least one print media supply tray identifier.

8. A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein initially installing print driver software further includes selectively configuring at least one output bin to be operatively associated with at least one identifiable print job request parameter selected from a group comprising at least one user identifier, at least

one print job identifier, at least one print media type identifier, at least one print media size identifier, and the print media supply tray identifier.

9. A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein initially installing print driver software further includes generating at least one print driver installer program for use with at least one computer coupled to the printer, wherein the print driver installer program is prearranged to match the configuration of the print media supply tray based at least on the print media size, the print media type, and the print media supply tray identifier, such that subsequent operation of the print driver installer program on the computer does not require user further input with regard to the configuration of the print media supply tray.

10. A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising operatively preparing a print job request using at least one application and a print driver in a computer coupled to the printer, the print job request having data to be printed and identifying at least one desired print media requirement selected from a group comprising a print media type selection, a print media size selection, a print media marking selection, a simplex print selection, a duplex print selection, a print media post-processing selection, a print media availability selection, a print media supply tray selection, and a print media output tray selection.

11. A method as recited in Claim 10, wherein operatively preparing a print job request further includes identifying if the current configuration status will prevent the print job from being completed based on at least one of the desired print media requirements, and, if so, alerting the user that the printer needs manual intervention to complete processing of the print job.

12. A method as recited in Claim 11, further comprising monitoring the current configuration status while processing the print job to determine if the print job cannot be completed based on at least one of the desired print media requirements, and, if so, alerting only the initiating user, via the print driver, that the printer needs manually intervention to complete processing of the print job.

13. A system comprising:
at least one computer^{25P} and
a printer^{8P} operatively coupled to the computer^{10G}, the printer including:

at least one print media supply tray^{16, 120, 126G} that is selectively configurable based at least on a print media size^{110, 132, 114P} and a print media type, and

at least one controller^{102/103} arranged to automatically update and output current configuration status information about the print media supply tray, including the print media size and the print media type, when the print media supply tray is operatively modified.

14. A system as recited in Claim 13, wherein the printer further includes at least a print media size detectable mechanism arranged to be modified in a manner that corresponds to the print media size associated with the print media supply tray, and at least a print media type detectable mechanism arranged to be modified in a manner that corresponds to the print media type associated with the print media supply tray.

15. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms are provided via at least one component selected from a group comprising the print media tray, and a printer input panel.

16. A system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the print media supply tray further includes a print media tray display, and the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and display current configuration status information via the print media tray display.

17. The system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the printer further includes a printer display panel, and the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and display current configuration status information via the printer display panel.

18. The system as recited in Claim 14, wherein the computer further includes a display and a graphical user interface arranged on the display, and the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and provide current configuration status information to the computer, which is further configured to display at least a portion of the current configuration status information via the graphical user interface.

19. A system as recited in Claim 15, wherein the printer is further configured to determine when the print media supply tray is operatively

modified by detecting at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray.

20. A system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the printer further includes at least one additional detectable mechanism selected from a group of detectable mechanisms comprising a tray position detectable mechanism, and a print media present detectable mechanism, and the controller is further configured to detect the at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray using the at least one additional detectable mechanism.

21. A printer for use with at least one computer, the printer comprising:

at least one print media supply tray that is selectively configurable based at least on a print media size and a print media type, and

at least one controller arranged to automatically update and output current configuration status information about the print media supply tray, including the print media size and the print media type, when the print media supply tray is operatively modified.

22. A system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the printer further includes at least a print media size detectable mechanism arranged to be modified in a manner that corresponds to the print media size associated with the print media supply tray, and at least a print media type detectable mechanism arranged to be modified in a manner that corresponds to the print media type associated with the print media supply tray.

23. A system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms are provided via at least one component selected from a group comprising the print media tray, and a printer input panel.

24. A system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the print media supply tray further includes a print media tray display, and the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and display current configuration status information via the print media tray display.

25. The system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the printer further includes a printer display panel, and the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and display current configuration status information via the printer display panel.

26. The system as recited in Claim 22, wherein the controller is further configured to detect the print media size and print media type detectable mechanisms and provide current configuration status information to the computer.

27. A system as recited in Claim 23, wherein the printer is further configured to determine when the print media supply tray is operatively modified by detecting at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray.

28. A system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the printer further includes at least one additional detectable mechanism selected from a group of detectable mechanisms comprising a tray position detectable mechanism, and a print media present detectable mechanism, and the controller is further configured to detect the at least one physical change associated with the print media supply tray using the at least one additional detectable mechanism.

0013100 68056460